

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 24, 2004, Applicant has amended the application by canceling claims 21 and 39, adding new claim 45, and amending claims 22, 25, 28, 30, 31, 40, 41, 42, and 44. Applicant has also submitted one substitute drawing sheet and amended the specification in response to objections to Fig. 9 and page 22 of the specification.

Reconsideration of all pending claims in light of the remarks presented below is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

Fig. 9 has been amended to correct the erroneous reference numeral noted by the Examiner. Acceptance of the substitute drawing sheet is requested.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner. Acceptance of the amendment is requested.

Objection to the Claims

In the previous office action, Examiner objected to claims 21, 28, 31, 39, and 40 for informalities. Claims 21 and 39 have been canceled. Because claims 28 and 40 were objected to but would be deemed allowable if rewritten to incorporate the independent claim and any intervening claims, they were

amended in a way that also addressed the noted informalities. Claim 31 was also amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Pending claims 21, 22, 30, 39, 42, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gilliom (U.S. Patent No. 3,859,979). Because Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the Examiner's objections to the claims, each of the amended claims is patentable over the references of record. Additionally, claims 22, 30, 42, and 44 have been amended to depend from a claim that is allowable. Claims 21 and 39 have been canceled. Consequently, all of the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance.

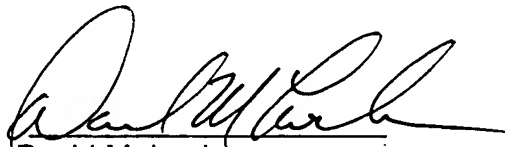
Amendment
September 30, 2004

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, all pending claims are patentable over the references of record. Applicants have also complied with Examiner's directions regarding amendment of the specification and drawings. Reexamination and allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David M. Lockman', written over a horizontal line.

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